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PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

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Stan Lee PRESENTS: **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!**

SPIDER-MAN NIGHT FEVER



BILL MANTLO / **FRANK SPRINGER** / **JOE ROSEN** • **LETTERS** / **BOB HALL** / **JIM SHOOTER**
AUTHOR / **ARTIST** / **BOB SHAREN** • **COLORS** / **EDITOR** / **EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

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The Devastator scan



UNTIL NOW THAT IS!

I HATED TO LEAVE
AUNT MAY SO
SOON AND...
HUN! WHAT'S
GOING ON?!

WE ASKED
YA NICE,
LADY--



--BUT MAYBE NICE AIN'T
GOOD ENOUGH FOR YA!

MEBBE
HER OLD
MAN CAN
CONVINCE
HER TO CO-
OPERATE!

N-NO,
PLEASE!

WHY YOU--
YOU HOODLUMS!
HELP...POLICE!



BUT IN THESE DAYS OF FISCAL AUSTERITY, TRANSIT COPS
ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN!

HEY--? GKKK!

OH,
MY!

MARTHA AND SAM
KRIEGER HAVE ONLY
ONE HOPE--



--AND HIS NAME'S
PETER PARKER!

WHY DON'T
YOU GO--
RILLAS PICK
ON SOMEONE
YOUR OWN
AGE?!



SNIK!

MEBBE WE WILL AT
THAT, HERO--AN YOU
JUST NOMINATED
YOURSELF AS FIRST
TO GO!

DON'T BE
SNY, HERO!
LET'S SEE
YOUR FACE!
I LIKE TO
KNOW WHO
I'M CARVIN'!



NO! IF THEY SHOULD EVEN
GUESS WHO IT IS THAT'S
USING SPIDER-STRENGTH
AGAINST THEM--

--MY LIFE AS
PETER PARKER
IS FINISHED!

YOU'D
BETTER
RUN
YOUNG
MAN!

HE CAN ONLY RUN
AS FAR AS THE END
OF THE TRAIN, POPS!



--AND ALL WITHIN IS SUDDENLY
PLUNGED INTO DARKNESS!



M--MARTHA, WHAT--
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!



THIS IS ONE THAT'LL
NEVER MAKE THE DAILY
BUGLE--EVEN THOUGH
SPIDEY'S BEEN EXONERATED
AND ALL THE CHARGES
AGAINST HIM DROPPED!



* SEE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #186--203

*JOHN JAMESON A/K/A MAN WOLF RE-APPEARING IN MARZ SPIDER-MAN #30--A MARY WOLFMAN GUEST EDITORIAL

THE DARKNESS IS PUNCTUATED BY THE SOUNDS OF BATTLE AND THE THUD OF FALLING THUGS! BUT WHEN AT LAST THE TRAIN ARRIVES IN THE STATION, AND THE LIGHTS COME ON AGAIN...

SOME KID JUST YELLED THAT SOMETHIN' WAS **WRONG** BACK HERE! WHAT--? HOLY SMOKES!!

THEY TRIED TO ROB US, CON-DUCTOR...!

BUT THEN THAT NICE YOUNG MAN BEAT THEM ALL UP, AND--OH, OH, MY STARS!

MEANWHILE, PETER PARKER EMERGES FROM THE DEPTHS OF NYC'S SUBWAY SYSTEM...

QUEENS
LESS LOCAL

HOME
AT LAST!

EAST SIDE
FORTY-SEVEN
EXIT

I'LL JUST HAVE TIME FOR A FAST SHOWER BEFORE I HIT THE BOOKS!

NOT GRADUATING WITH THE REST OF MY CLASS, **MURT** MORE THAN I'VE CARED TO ADMIT-- EVEN TO MYSELF!!

BUT I'VE GOT THE SUMMER TO MAKE UP THE CREDITS I MISSED-- AND **NOTHING** IS GOING TO DISTRACT ME FROM MY STUDIES!

APPEARING
TONIGHT!

AT THE
BEYOND
FOREVER
DISCO

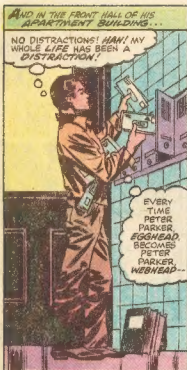
THE
HYPNO-HUSLER

READ ABOUT
SPIDER-MAN
MURDER

EVERY DAY
IN THE
DAILY BU

*THE WHOLE BORRY STORY WAS TOLD IN AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #105 -- BOB, MARY, BILL & JIM.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

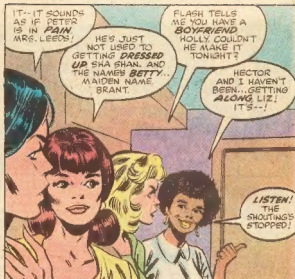




C'MON BOOK-
WORM! WE'VE
GOT A **TABLE**
RESERVED AT
THE **BEYOND**
FOREVER DISCO!

HUH? BUT THAT'S **FANCY FLASH!**
I DON'T EVEN OWN A **SUIT**--
LET ALONE A **TUXEDO!**

OL' **HARRY'S**
TAKEN CARE
OF **THAT**
PETE!



IT-- IT SOUNDS
AS IF **PETER**
IS IN **PAIN**
MRS. **LEEDS!**

HE'S JUST
NOT USED TO
GETTING **DRESSED**
UP SHA SHAN. AND
THE NAME'S **BETTY**...
MAIDEN NAME
BRANT.

FLASH TELLS
ME YOU HAVE A
BOYFRIEND
HOLLY COULDN'T
HE MAKE IT
TONIGHT?

HECTOR
AND I HAVEN'T
BEEN...GETTING
ALONG **LIZ!**
IT'S--!

LISTEN!
THE
SHOUTING'S
STOPPED!



THEY MUST BE
COMING **OUT!**



AND...
TA-TAA!

A REGULAR **JOHN TRAVOLTA!**

I'VE NEVER
FELT SO
RIDICULOUS
IN ALL MY
LIFE!



DON'T ANY OF YOU HAVE ANY
SYMPATHY? YOU'RE **BOOMING**
ME TO SIX MORE MONTHS AS
AN **UNDERGRADUATE!**

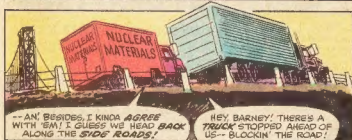


NO. ALL RIGHT, I CAN SEE MY **PLEA** IS FALLING
ON DEAF EARS! LET'S **GO** AND GET THIS **OVER** WITH!

THAT'S TAKING
IT ON THE
CHIN, PETE!

WELL, WHAT
ARE WE
WAITING FOR?

A **SIGH** ESCAPES FROM
PETER PARKER--





LEAVE 'EM! BY THE TIME THEY WAKE UP AND STAGGER BACK TO THE MAIN HIGHWAY--

--THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE ON ITS KNEES BEFORE THE MAGGIA!

MORE OF THIS NEXT MONTH...

--FOR AT THIS MOMENT, ONE SMALL PART OF THE WORLD IS ON ITS FEET BEFORE A DISCO PALACE CALLED...

BEYOND FOREVER



PETER WHY DO YOU TRY TO ACT LIKE SUCH A DUD?

UH--IT'S KIND OF CROWDED, BETTY!

COULDN'T WE JUST GO TO A MOVIE?

WHO'S ACTING?

AND, INSIDE THE GLITTERING BALLROOM...



GEE! WE'RE NOT AS DRESSED UP AS I THOUGHT!

FORGET STYLE! LET'S FIGHT OUR WAY TO A TABLE BEFORE WE GET HUSTLED ON!

HI! ARE YOU TOURISTS? WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DRINK BEFORE DINNER?

UH--SIX COKES AND A PEPS! LIGHT!

YOU MEAN, AS MIXERS? DON'T YOU WANT ANYTHING IN THEM?

YOU HAVE ANY ICE?

PETE, LOOK! ISN'T THAT--?

MARY JANE! ER-- HI!

FANCY MEETING YOU HERE MR. PARKER!

OH, PETER! I'M DOOMED! I HOPE MARY JANE DOESN'T THINK--!

FORGET IT, BETTY! WE'RE HERE TO HAVE A GOOD TIME, RIGHT?

SINCE I PHONED ALL LAST NIGHT TRYING TO INVITE YOU TO GO WITH ME!

LET'S DANCE BEFORE I DIE LAUGHING!

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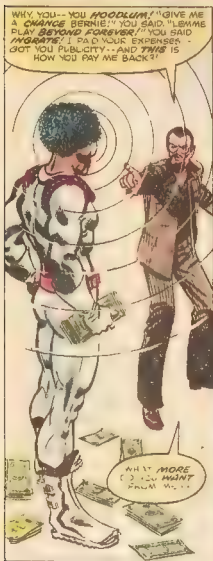
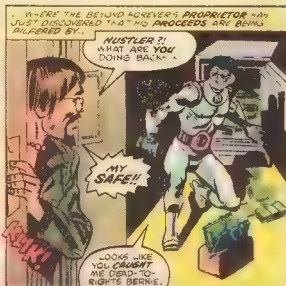
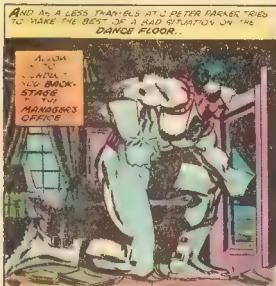
ALLOW 4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY. CANADIANS

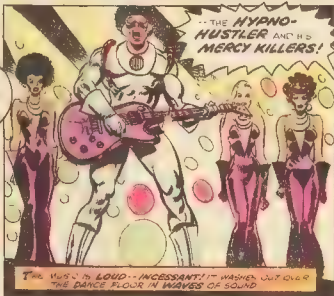
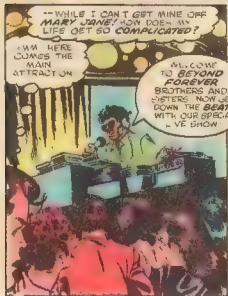
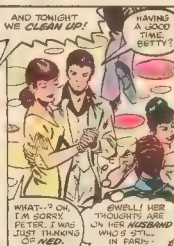
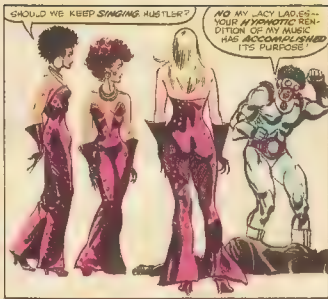
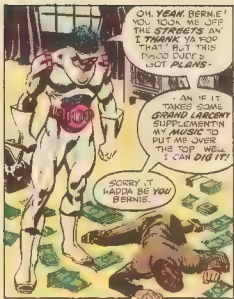
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Dear Marvel readers:

You know, I'm getting harder and harder to convince that the Peter Parker who frolics in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, and the MARVEL TEAM UP is the same neurotic I used to know and love from the old Lee-Ditko days. Where are the plot complications? The hidden ironies? The grandiose acrobatics I used to know?

Remember when Aunt May cautioned Peter to wash an apple before eating it? And he said, "Sure, Aunt May. You know I'm not the type to live dangerously." Or when Aunt May discovered his costume after he lost his original and was forced to wear a dime-store duplicate which shrunk on him when he got it wet? Or when, upon hearing a sound, he ran out on a dock to discover its source, tripped on a plank and fell headlong into the waters below, thinking, "Sometimes I wonder if this super hero business is really for me!" Or when he broke out in a cold sweat at the thought of having to sew himself a new costume? And what about the days when Peter had to contend with a Betty Brant who loved him yet dated Ned Leeds, at the same time hating Spider-Man? Or Liz Allen who originally disliked Pete, then fell in love with him later on when he displayed his courage, much to the displeasure of Flash Thompson? Or Mary Jane Watson, a mysterious enigma whom Pete never met (in Ditko left? Or Gwen Stacy, for that matter—a beauty contest winner who thought Pete a coward, then fell in love with him?

Now look at his romantic life. He has a perfectly straight forward affair with Mary Jane, one of the most gorgeous females in the Western Hemisphere with no competition! Peter? Our Peter? Who really was never even very handsome? I mean, comes—you would expect at least one schlemiel to try and break them up, perhaps an actor type, since MJ's an aspiring actress. Mary Jane was, after all, one of the most fickle—well, not exactly fickle—but she never made or expected any commitments in her love affairs. Does their emotional reality fit in with Pete's character and personal life, as you at the Bullpen see it?

Or his relationship with Flash Thompson and Harry Osborn? Now, I don't expect them to be as juvenile as they were in high school, but for Pete's sake, Flash couldn't stand the sight of Peter once, and Harry used to be the original rich kid who was convinced Pete snubbed him for his wealth, and who set out to get even. Okay, okay—maybe they are all friends now—but a new character has appeared who are just as hostile to Peter. What's happened to Pete's (usually rotten) luck? It used to be all bad—now it seems, with the sole brilliant exception of Gwen's death, to be mostly good. Come on, return the favor, give us new and unexplored with Gwen's role in the friction between Pete and his co-characters—Glory Grant, Mary Jane, and Harry—everybody!

Al Schroeder III
2207 Old Hickory Blvd
Nashville, TN 37215

Al, as you've no doubt already noticed here in the pages of PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN and in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, many of the directions you ask for all have already begun to coalesce. Bill Mantlo and Mary Wolfman are working jointly to establish Peter's life for the next few years to come, and they're both very, very committed to the kind of ever-changing flow that Stan and Steve first brought to the strip to, these 15 years ago. This issue, for instance, is one example of the kind of stories, starring Pete, which Bill will be throwing your way in PPTSS... and more changes you couldn't

ask for than those taking place right now in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. As for new characters, keep watchin'... they're on the way!

Dear Frank,

You guys never cease to amaze me! The Enforcers' return was beautifully handled, as only Mantlo could have done it. And, as far as I'm concerned, Sal Buscema is the best superhero artist in your ranks. His art is always clear, powerful and vibrant.

I knew you guys wouldn't kill off Lightmaster off. He's the perfect "Mr. Big". I'm always glad to see Hector Ayala, but wished his white-costumed alter-ego would've made an appearance. Now for suggestion time. How about... Spidey vs. Moon Knight??? And, please, can the White Tiger have his own color mag???

Jerry Rapp
516 Country Lane Terrace
Kansas City, MO 64114

Well, Jer, if you were here for our last two issues, you know that your first suggestion was anticipated. As for the White Tiger, he'll be appearing more and more frequently in PPTSS, and we'll talk to Jim (Trouble) Shooter about maybe getting him a tryout issue in MARVEL PREMIERE. Letters like yours might help that along.

PPTSS #19 was fantastic! I loved the way our friendly neighborhood Spider-guy casually smashed the Ox's jaw! Not one of Bill's best, but good. However, I would like to see more of Pete in PETER PARKER as well as more frequent appearances by Aunt May, Mary Jane, etc. at all. Nuff said?

Cory Johnson
4 Gexton Way
Fairport, NY 14450

Dear Marvel Mediner

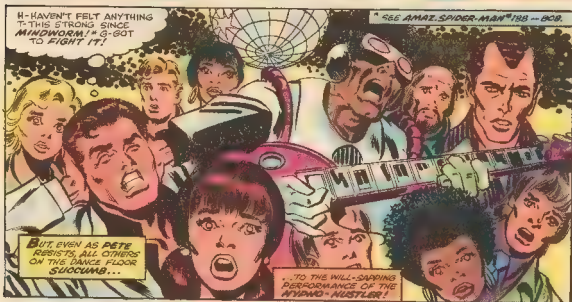
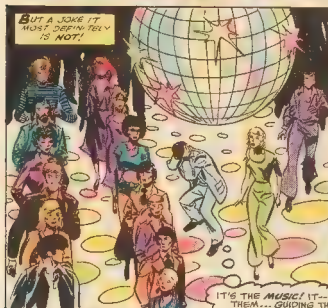
Re PPTSS #19 "The leaves will hide my street clothes"
What leaves? One to pizza, please!

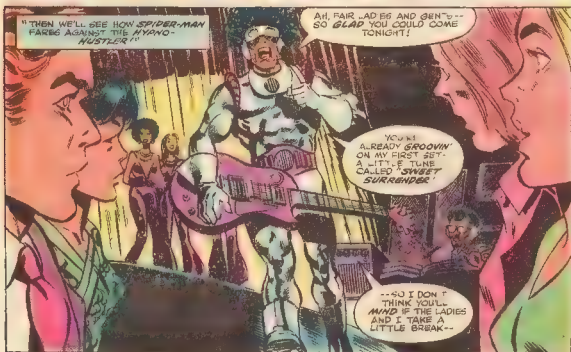
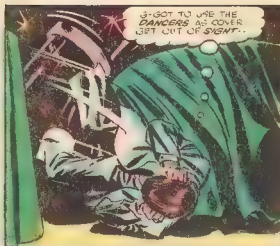
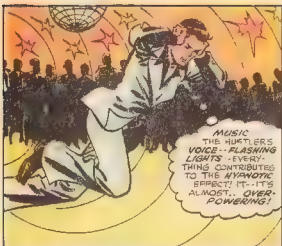
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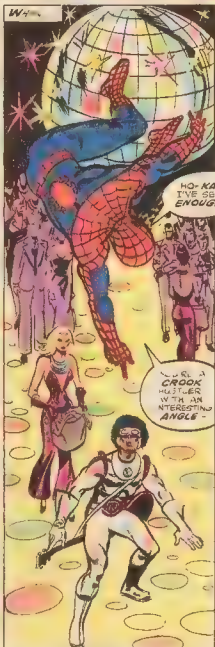
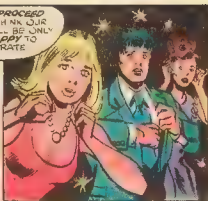
Dear ditko, baka Mike

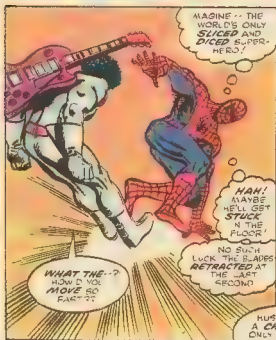
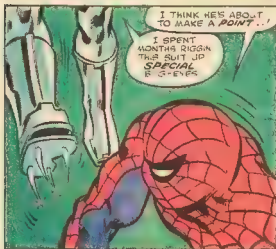
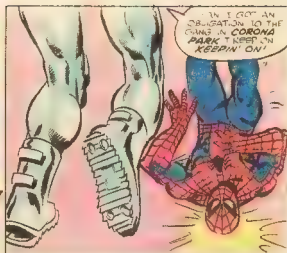
A good issue was PPTSS #19. Nothing outstanding that will live in the annals of comics but on the other hand, who can find a real flaw? Sal's art was typically direct, efficient and enjoyable, while Bill's script had all the traits of one of those great, old time Lee-Ditko efforts. What traits are those? We snappy dialogue (particularly delightful were the exchanges between Hector and Holly) as well as a highly amusing series of wisecracks on the last two pages. Another trait was the classic use of those quaint stumblebums, the Enforcers, to ferret a villain with so much power and charisma that he's bound to become a permanent fixture in Spider-Man's Rogues Gallery. I'm speaking, of course, of Lightmaster. The ending, depicting his "discovery of Spider-Man's identity", was another nice touch, filling one with foreboding, but giving no clues as to what exactly is going to happen. Spider-Man's been glutted with predictable cliffhangers late y, and this was a welcome relief.

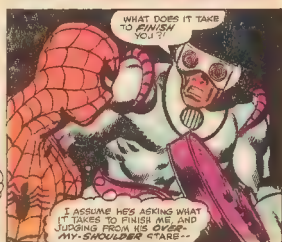
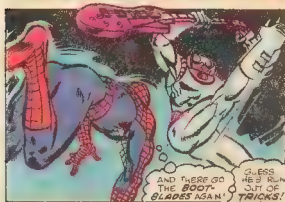
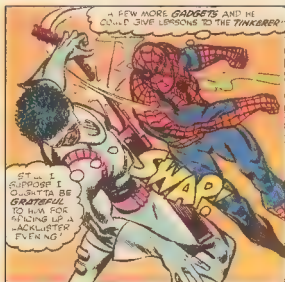
Brian Nelson
617 Yale Station
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BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Well, I guess there isn't a comicbook fan or a television watcher who hasn't caught a few of the Spider-Man or Hulk prime time TV shows by now. In the past few months I've received countless letters asking for my own opinion of these Marvel media cultural breakthroughs! And, since you've bothered to ask, the least I can do is help to obfuscate the issue with my own cryptic comments and cogent critiques. Naturally, as you may have guessed, I'd be happier if the showshewer closer to our original comicbook story lines; and yet, I'm aware of the reasons which caused the networks and the producers to make so many changes. Basically, they were afraid the shows would seem too "comicbooky" if they were presented exactly the way you see the stories in our own magnificent mags. The changes in both Spidey and the Hulk were made in an effort to mold the shows closer to the format of most other TV mystery and action dramas. My own personal feeling is that it would be better to take the opposite approach and make them as different as possible. However, I must say that both Universal Studios (the producers of the Hulk), and Danchurch Productions (who do Spider-Man), have constantly striven to make their series intelligent, adult, and true to the basic spirit of the magazines themselves. I'm sure you can tell that neither series is done in a "camp" manner, nor have our characters been burlesqued or treated in a comball way. Both the acting and direction have been first rate, and production standards have been as high as any other prime-time show. Since I function as consultant to our TV series, the producers and I really do discuss the stories and kick all sorts of ideas around, and I'm happy to tell you that they're slowly but surely beginning to come around to our way of thinking. As more and more Marvel shows begin to hit the airwaves, you'll notice that they'll begin to get closer to the original flavor and feeling of the offbeat Marvel style. And now, a word about another new Marvel TV project. Starting early in September (consult your TV listings for exact time), NBC will be presenting the Fantastic Four in cartoon form on its network Saturday mornings. Most of the basic stories will be Bullpen produced, and the animation is being done by the award-winning DePatie-Freleng Studios who also bring you the Pink Panther and many other famous cartoon series. Give 'em a look-in—we think you'll like what you see. In future issues, I'll tell you more about our burgeoning television and movie plans, but now it's time to get back to the real world—namely the pages of mighty Marvel!

Excellent!

Stan

ITEM! We told him not to try it, but he wouldn't listen! With a resolute shrug of his broad shoulders, Gigantic JIM SHOOTER began almost a year ago to guide the Avengers through a ten-part epic saga intended to stand as a true achievement in comics art. Now, many trials, tribulations, production problems and I told-you-so's later, despite all the snips and arrows of outrageous fortune cast by unrelenting Fate, at last it's finished! As it turned out, it took practically the whole blamed Bullpen pitching in to pull it off, but Big Jim managed to coordinate the effort, somehow, and preserve the creative thrust of the tale as originally conceived. So let the banners fly and the trumpets blare, for issue #177 of THE AVENGERS marks the so-called conclusion of the story begun in issue #167. We've already read it, and, believe us, it's a shocker! In fact, we figure there's bound to be more than a little controversy over the startling climax of this magnum opus. Some say Shooter has dared too much, even for mighty Marvel, but, as always, the final verdict is in your hands. Pick up your copy, (it's on sale now), and tell us what you think.



ITEM! Everyone suspected it was coming all along, and yet Delightful DAVE COCKRUM and Pulchritudinous PATY still managed to surprise most of the Bullpenners with the announcement of their wedding April 28th! Dave assured us that the issue of Ms. MARVEL he's penning will come in right on time any way, but ace Production Chief, Liten' LENNY CROW is arranging a week's extension just in case! After all, Dave can be excused for having other things on his mind for a while, and besides, judging from the overwhelming raves his previous Ms. M effort brought, this one should be worth the wait! If you hurry down to your newsstand, if you're lucky you may still be able to latch on to issue #20, and if you're smart, come early September you'll be first in line among the art lovers to pick up the next spectacular issue! Don't miss it!

ITEM! Granted, every month seems to be stuffed full of special events and super sur prizes from the House of Ideas, but this little happening has to be the biggest yet! Marvel Comics passes a Major Milestone this month with issue #200 of the magazine that started it all—THE FANTASTIC FOUR! Issue 200 on sale the third week in August, also marks the 17th anniversary of the advent of the Mighty Marvel Age of Comics. To celebrate, we've paired out all the stops and made this landmark issue twice the normal size with double the action and thrills. Marvelous MARV WOLFMAN, Creative KE TH POLLARD and Jolint' JOE SINNOTT crafted it with care and respect, and all of us at Marvel are very proud of their fine effort. More, we're proud of what it represents: namely the hard work, love, and caring that has brought us all so far since the glorious day that Stan and Jack gave form and substance to their epochal ideas. To them, and to you our faithful following, without whom we'd be nothing, our deepest thanks, and our promise to carry on the fine tradition left to us. If you can only buy one comic this month, join our celebration and plunk down your 80¢ for F.F. #200—still the World's Greatest Comics Magazine!

ITEM! The word has watched and waited in breathless anticipation to, these several months since DAV D MICHELINIE arrived on the Marvel scene, for the Deliberate One to pick up his first regular series. Now it can be told that with issue #116 of IRON MAN, on sale now, Dave joins John Romita, Jr., and Bob Layton to chronicle the monthly adventures of our favorite Armored Avenger! We've earned to expect the unexpected from Dave, but we have to admit that he absolutely blew our minds on page seven with a start ing plot development that had us checking to see if we weren't reading an issue of WHAT IF...? by mistake! Nope, it's real, friends, and believe us, it's something you've got to be there to believe. So be there!

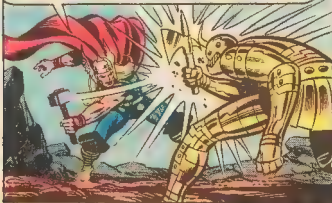
ITEM! The other day, Earnest ERNIE CHAN stopped by the hallowed halls bearing an enormous envelope full of inked CONAN pages. As the minions of Marvel Assembled oohed and aahed in admiration, Ernie quietly mentioned that, by the way, he'd have been in a bit sooner except for the arrival on April 25th of his new baby girl, CLEO CARON CHAN! After proper fuss and we all allowed as to how it was okay to be a bit late with the Conan job under the circumstances, especially since, in a month or so, we figure Captivator! Cleo will be inking backgrounds for her elegant Daddy.

ITEM! By the way, for those who are wondering where Boisterous BILL MANTLO has vanished to after his stellar stint on Iron Man, rest assured that he hasn't gone far. Bill set Iron Man aside to work with Magical MIKE GOLDEN on our latest and possibly greatest project—THE MCGRONAUTS! You'll be hearing lots more about them very soon!

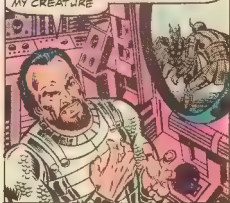
As this column was being written, word arrived that on May 7th, long-time DC Comics editor Mort Weisinger passed away. To his family, friends, our sincerest condolences.

THOR IN GOOD OVERCOMES EVIL!

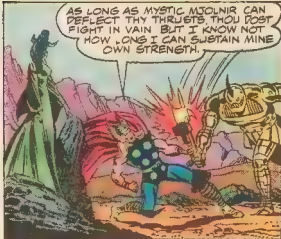
I CANNOT TELL IF THIS FORMIDABLE OPPONENT BE MAN OR MACHINE. EVEN THE MIGHTY Mallet OF MJOLNIR CANNOT MAKE A DENT IN HIS ATTACK.



THE CURSED THUNDER GOD LOSES SOME OF HIS THUNDER! HIS STRENGTH PREVAILS NOT AGAINST MY CREATURE



AS LONG AS MYSTIC MJOLNIR CAN DEFLECT THY THRUSTS, THOU FOST FIGHT IN VAIN BUT I KNOW NOT HOW LONG I CAN SUSTAIN MINE OWN STRENGTH.

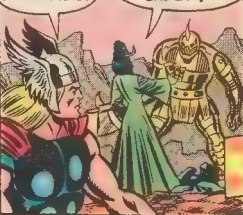


BY THE GODS! MY MYSTIC FORCES INFORM ME THIS IS A BEING WHOSE MIND AND MUSCLE ARE UNDER THE SPELL OF AN EVIL MIND. WE MUST TEMPT HIS SENSES BACK TO REALITY.



BY THUNDER, HE STOPS IN HIS TRACKS AT THE SIGHT OF HOSTESS® FRUIT PIES.

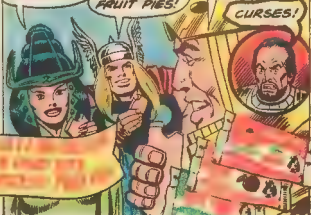
INDEED WHAT POWER CAN RESIST THE DELICIOUS, REAL FRUIT FILLING, THE LIGHT, TENDER CRUST?



HOSTESS FRUIT PIES HAVE RE-AWAKENED HIS OWN BEING AND DESTROYED THE SPELL.

ENJOY THYSELF! EAT THY FILL OF APPLE, CHERRY AND PEACH FRUIT PIES!

IT IS GOOD TO BE ONE'S OWN MAN AGAIN AND TO ENJOY SUCH GOODNESS!



CURSES!





Wonder Woman



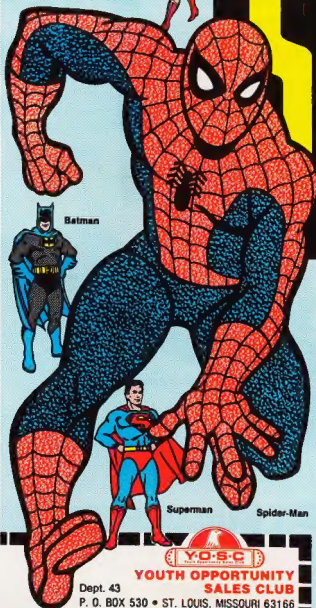
Batman



Superman



Spider-Man



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SPARKLE TO
YOUR ROOM

SUPER

HANG UPS

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turns crank shaft

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transmission

Working
engine
gears

Shock
absorber

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